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17 August 1966

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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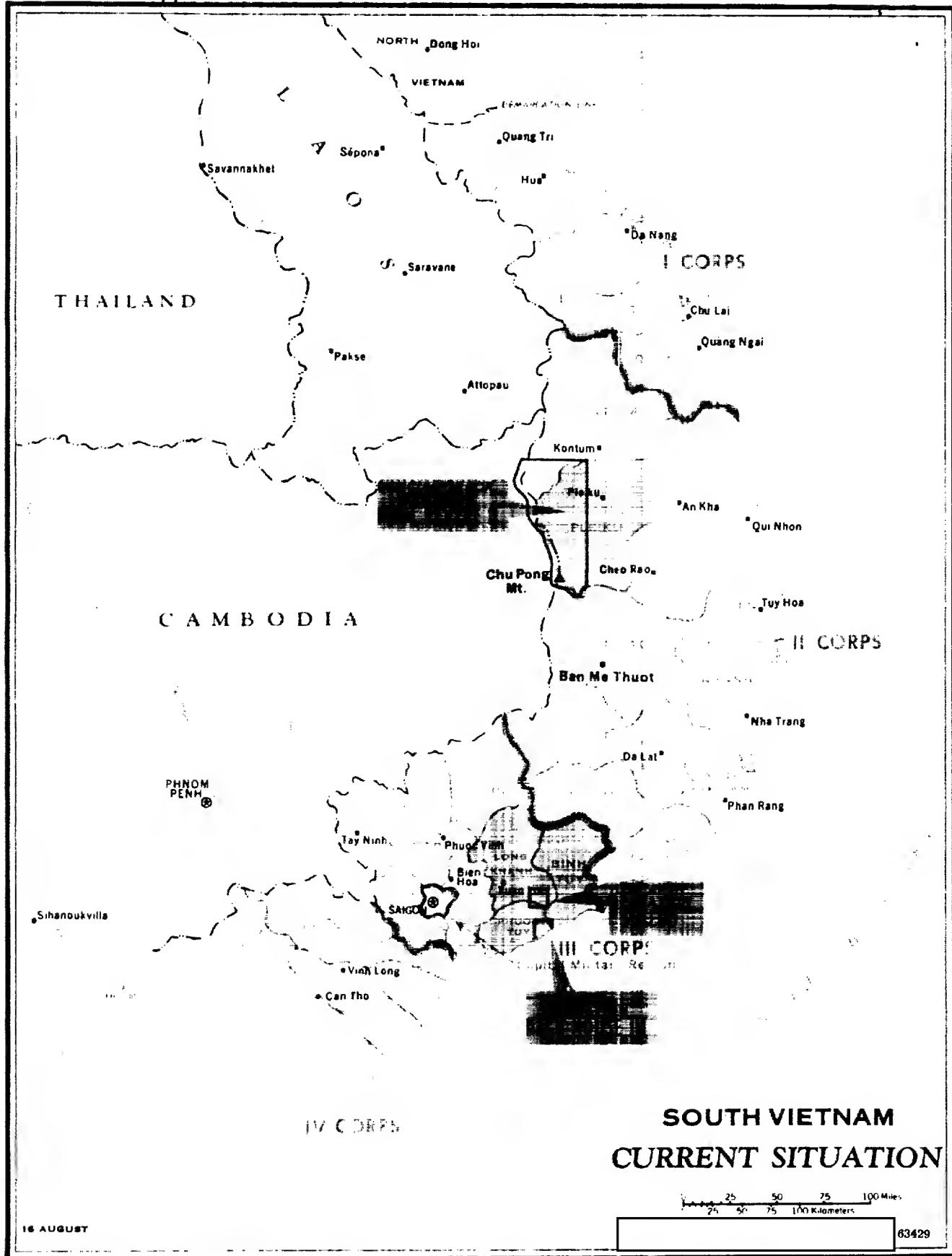
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***Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EDT)**

The Military Situation in South Vietnam: There have been no reports of major ground activity in South Vietnam during the past 24 hours.

US and South Vietnamese troops participating in Operation PAUL REVERE II continue to search the Chu Pong Mountain area of southwestern Pleiku Province for an estimated battalion-size North Vietnamese Army force. No contact has been reported since 15 August. (See Map)

A new operation--DECK HOUSE III--began yesterday in Phuoc Tuy and Binh Tuy provinces in co-ordination with US - South Vietnamese Operation TOLEDO. US Marines participating in DECK HOUSE III are moving northward from the coast to establish a blocking position. A 4,450-man Viet Cong force is reportedly operating in the general area. (See Map)

[Political Developments in South Vietnam: A breakdown in talks between the government and FULRO, the dissident tribal autonomy movement, has been temporarily averted.]

[The chief negotiator for FULRO, Y-Dhe Adrong, who earlier stated he would return to Cambodia if Premier Ky did not reply to FULRO demands by 15 August, has apparently let the deadline pass.]

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[] FULRO president Y Bham Enuol has sent word to his negotiators urging them to exercise patience while pressing the government to consent quickly to their demands.]

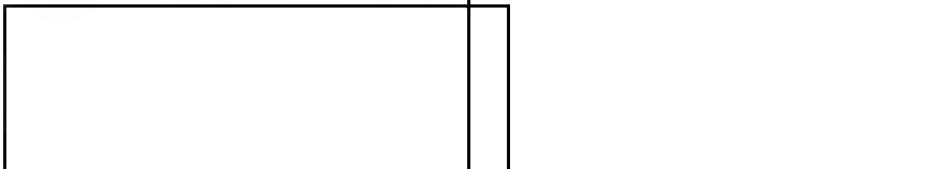
(continued)

[FULRO representatives in Ban Me Thuot have reportedly requested the government to extend until 25 August the deadline for submitting candidates for the eight montagnard seats in the National Constitutional Assembly so FULRO can participate if an agreement is reached.] (See Map)

The threatened strike of workers at the Caltex installations in Saigon was settled yesterday, following intense negotiations between government, labor, and company officials. The only sanctions to be imposed are warning letters and short suspensions for some of the troublemakers.

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Laos: [Souvanna Phouma is making limited concessions to preserve the delicate balance within his government.]

[Under pressure from National Assembly members impatient for a greater political role, Souvanna has accepted their demand that three Secretary of State vacancies be filled. In addition, he may accept the resignation of neutralist Minister of Interior Pheng Phongsavan, long a target of restive assembly members because of his leftist tendencies. Souvanna--anxious to retain at least the facade of tripartite government--has refused, however, to accede to demands that he officially replace the long-absent Pathet Lao cabinet members.]

[The increasingly powerful General Staff has sought to moderate assembly demands and has declared its support of the present government. In return for such support, the General Staff reportedly will press for appointing a military figure to the position of minister of defense. Souvanna, who presently holds this portfolio and recognizes that the two most likely candidates--Generals Kouprasith and Ouane--are his rivals for power, is reluctant to make such an appointment, and it is unlikely that he will acquiesce in the army's demand.]

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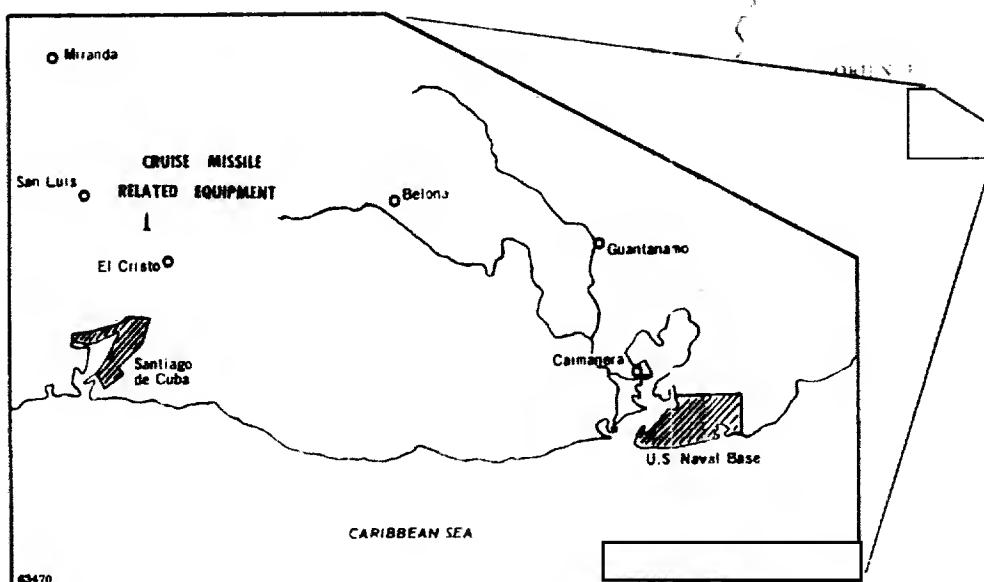
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CUBA



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NOTES

Syria-Israel: The belligerent attitudes of both Syria and Israel may lead to further and perhaps more serious border clashes. Following the 15 August incident on the Sea of Galilee, Damascus announced it no longer would complain to the United Nations, but would counter further actions by striking inside Israel. The Israeli Chief of Staff has authorized "hot pursuit" by Israeli aircraft and has implied that Israel will retaliate immediately against Syria for any Fatah terrorist raids.

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*Cuba: A preliminary readout of overhead photography [redacted] revealed cruise-missile associated equipment near El Cristo, Oriente Province. El Cristo is about nine miles north-northeast of Santiago de Cuba and approximately 43 miles west-northwest of the US Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay. The range of Cuba's KENNEL cruise missiles, both the coastal defense type and the ground-to-ground variant, is about 40 miles.

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